

Top 10 reasons networking is the best career, according to Kirk Skinner, manager of video collaboration, Global Systems & Strategies:

10. The boss has no clue what I'm doing.
9. The boss has no clue why I'm doing it.
8. I can screw it up and blame it on the latest virus.
7. I get to play with the latest toys.
6. The network operations center (NOC) is ALWAYS air conditioned.
5. The people I work with HAVE to be intelligent (they wouldn't make it otherwise).
4. I can play "Everquest" and rationalize it as network testing.
3. I can play "Half-Life Counter-Strike" and rationalize it as . . . hmmmmm . . . NETWORK TESTING!
2. I can run DiscJockey.com in the NOC as a connectivity indicator.

And the No. 1 reason networking is the best career:

1. It keeps me engaged in an industry that is literally changing the socioeconomic boundaries of the entire world while effectively bringing the concept of freedom within the grasp of any individual with a connection to the 'Net. That, brings value to my existence.

Top 10 reasons it's good to be in the network business according to Joel Snyder, senior partner for technology consulting firm OpusOne and Network World Global Test Alliance member:

10. You understand each and every Dilbert cartoon - even the ones about ISDN D channels - because [Dilbert creator] Scott Adams used to be in the network business.
9. You can say 'nontrivial exercise in futility' and "hit upside the head with a clue-by-four" at lunch and everyone else knows what you're talking about.
8. E-mail, e-mail, e-mail.
7. You never have to feel like some idiot is running your network and doing a bad job. (You are that idiot.)
6. You always have the possibility of actually talking to clue-full individuals such as Vint Cerf and Radia Perlman.
5. More jobs than people keeps salaries high.
4. You got a good domain name when there were still some out there.
3. The poor economy is no real problem because equipment costs are dropping faster than they can cut your budget.
2. You bought Cisco when it was cheap because you could see it had good stuff (and you're still making money at \$19 a share).

And the No. 1 reason it's good to be in the network business:

1. All the bandwidth you can eat.